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Date: October 9, 2012

Subject: 2012 emerald ash borer /Asian longhorned beetle detection surveys

To: Dr. Colien Hefferan, Director
U.S. National Arboretum

The emerald ash borer (EAB) was detected in Washington, DC in August of 2011 as a result purple panel detection traps were deployed within the National Arboretum in the spring of this year. In addition, Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) traps (figure 1) were also deployed within the Arboretum (figure 2). The ALB traps are the result of a cooperative project funded by the USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area, and Pennsylvania State University (PSU). Researchers at PSU have developed a multi-component blend of attractants for this insect pest. This is the first national deployment of this trapping system, which is being run through the Sentinel Plant Network working with 11 different federal, state and private arboretum across the Northeast and Midwest.

I am glad to report that no emerald ash borer or the Asian longhorned beetles were detected in either survey. However, the presence of both of these insects especially in the early stages of infestation is extremely difficult to detect.

The emerald ash borer is an invasive beetle that has been found in Pennsylvania, New York, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Maryland, Kentucky, Missouri, Minnesota, Virginia, Wisconsin and West Virginia. Since its accidental introduction sometime in the late 1990s, this beetle has caused millions of dollars in damage to ash trees across the Midwest, and has produced wide-ranging quarantines and regulations on movement of ash trees and firewood in the hopes of preventing further spread. The emerald ash borer impacts all North American species of ash trees, and may be spread over long distances through the transport of trees and wood products, such as nursery stock and firewood.

The Asian longhorned beetle like EAB is an invasive insect under quarantine. Infestations have been detected in New York, New Jersey, Illinois, Massachusetts and Ohio. To date only the Illinois infestation has been declared eradicated. The beetle was discovered in Brooklyn, New York in 1996, and is believed to have been introduced on wooden pallets from Asia. This beetle has a wide host range, feeding on a number of different deciduous hardwood trees such as maple, birch, popular, willow, elm and ash.

The National Arboretum should be planning for the arrival of the EAB, and on the lookout for ALB. We ask that all Arboretum personnel continue to monitor for evidence of insect activity defoliation, discoloration, and mortality on the Arboretum and report any insect and disease activity to the Morgantown Field Office.



Figure 1. Asian longhorn beetle trap.



I personally would also like to extend my appreciation to Christopher Carley and Tony Vlahakis for their valuable assistance in this survey. If you or any of your staff have any questions or comments regarding this survey, please contact Rick Turcotte at (304) 285-1544.

Sincerely,

Robert Lueckel

Field Representative

Morgantown Field Office

Cc: Christopher Carley, Supervisory Horticulturist

RMT/AKS



Figure 2. Locations of emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle traps within the U.S. National Arboretum.